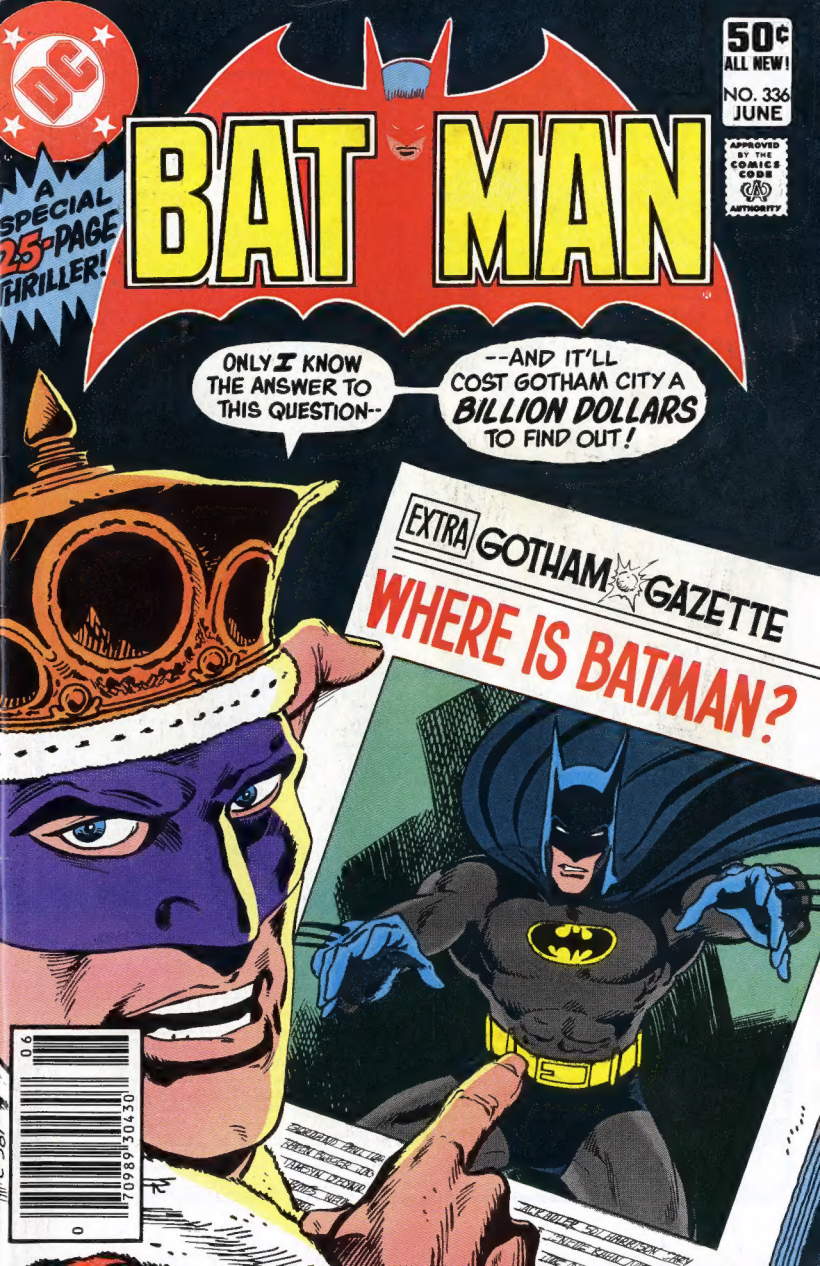
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NO. 336
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HEADS UP, SAM! HE'S GIVEN UP ON THE HOSTAGE BIT--

--AND HE'S COMIN' OUT!

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PO

73

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letterer colorist editor

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WHO AS THIS GUY ANYWAY?

HE'S BOUNCIN' AROUND LIKE A BLASTED RUBBER BALL!

SPA

DING

THAT ALONE SHOULD HAVE APPRISED YOU, MY FLAT-FOOTED FRIEND--

ACO

POLICE

GOLDMAN INC.

--THAT THE BOUNCER'S THE NAME--

BLAM

BLAM

ALL

SAM! THE RESTAURANT'S CLOSED-- SO WE CAN USE OUR GUNS!

AND BOUNCING IS MOST DEFINITELY MY GAME!

SPRANG!

HE'S GETTING AWAY!

YOU MEAN HE'S GOT AWAY--

--DIAMONDS AND ALL!

INDEED, IT'S ALL OVER BUT THE--

--NIGHT-OWL NEWS TEAM, HERE AT THE SCENE OF THE CRIME!

SO TELL US, OFFICER KRUPKE-- SINCE THIS WAS OBVIOUSLY A MORE-THAN-HUMAN ROBBER YOU WERE DEALING WITH--

--WHY WASN'T THE BATMAN AROUND TO HELP OUT?

THE FINE JEWELRY YOU ARE LOOKIN'

YOU TELL ME, AND THEN WE'LL BOTH KNOW!

NOBODY'S HEARD A PEEP OUT OF THAT MASKED MAN IN WEEKS.

AND THERE YOU HAVE IT, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, RIGHT FROM THE HORSE'S MOUTH AND--

--HOT OFF THE PRESSES, COMMISSIONER GORDON!

I'D FIGURED YOU WANT TO SEE THEM PRONTO.

YOU FIGURED RIGHT, PATRICK.

THANKS.

HMMM... PATRICK'S LUCKY IT'S OUT OF STYLE TO KILL THE BEARERS OF BAD TIDINGS...

...OR ELSE I'D HAVE HAD TO SHOOT HIM.

NOT MUCH OF A JOKE, I'M AFRAID, COMMISSIONER.

NO-- AND NEITHER ARE THESE HEADLINES!

YOU REALLY CAN'T BLAME 'EM, SIR...

I DON'T BLAME THE PAPERS-- I BLAME US!

WHERE IS THE BATMAN? IS GOTHAM HELPLESS WITHOUT BATMAN?

A WAVE OF CRIME ON THE STREETS OF GOTHAM CITY

ONE MAN DROPS OUT OF SIGHT FOR A FEW WEEKS-- AND SUDDENLY WE'VE GOT A MAJOR CRIME WAVE ON OUR HANDS!

UH--SHALL I ISSUE A DENIAL, COMMISSIONER?

NEGA-TIVE, FRED...

SINCE WE DON'T KNOW WHERE HE IS OR WHY HE'S GONE.

OR IF HE'S COMING BACK!

IS BATMAN DEAD?

UH--WHAT JERRY MEANS, SIR, IS--

I KNOW WHAT HE MEANS, BLAST IT-- AND THE BATMAN'S NOT DEAD!

I'D STAKE MY LIFE ON IT!

BUT THEN--

--IT'S NOT YOUR LIFE WE'RE TALKING ABOUT, IS IT, GORDON?

GOTHAM GAZETTE

IS BATMAN DEAD?

GOTHAM COURIER

BATMAN DEAD?

--AND I REPEAT, GENTLEMEN--

--HE IS NOT DEAD, BUT SAFELY IN MY KEEPING--

--WHERE HE SHALL REMAIN, SO LONG AS YOU OF GOTHAM CITY'S UNDERWORLD CONTINUE TO PAY DUE TRIBUTE TO ME!

AND I STILL SAY WE'VE GOT NO PROOF YOU HAD ANYTHING TO DO WITH THE BATMAN'S DISAPPEARANCE!

'COURSE, IT'S TRUE YOU CALLED US TOGETHER A FEW WEEKS AGO, AND PROMISED HE'D VANISH WITHOUT A TRACE--

--AN' HE SURE DID THAT, ALL RIGHT.

GOTHA

IS BAT DEA

PUBLIC

STILL, IT COULD'VE BEEN ANYBODY WHO GOT TO HIM-- IF HE'S REALLY GONE FOR GOOD.

YES, IT COULD HAVE BEEN ANYONE, MY FRIEND... BUT IT WASN'T...

...IT WAS I, THE MONARCH OF MENACE!

THE BATMAN PUT ME IN PRISON ONCE *-- BUT NOW I AM FREE AGAIN, AND HOLD HIM CAPTIVE!

* SEE DETECTIVE COMICS #350. --PAUL.

YOU WON'T HEAR ANY COMPLAINTS FROM ME, MONARCH-- AS LONG AS HE STAYS GONE.

HERE'S THE 10% I OWE YOU FROM MY LAST FEW HEISTS.

YOU ARE A WISE MAN, SIR BOUNCER...

...AS YOU SHALL ALL BE WISE, TO PAY ME FOR KEEPING THE BATMAN IMPRISONED.

WELL?

YOU WIN, MONARCH!

CHEAP AT TWICE THE PRICE!

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THUS, NEXT DAY...

...SO I TOLD HER, YOU TELL THAT BLOOD-SUCKIN' MOTHER OF YOURS TO--

R70

HEY! WHO IN BLAZES IS THAT?!

I DUNNO, BUT-- SOME KIND OF CRAZY CARTWHEEL ON HIS CHEST-- SPINNING--

--MAKIN' ME DIZZY-- AS IF--

WH--? HE'S GONE!

YEAH-- BUT LOOK WHAT JUST TOOK HIS PLACE!

IT'S SOME KIND 'A LIZARD-- OR DRAGON-- OR SOMETHING!

HURRY-- SLAM ON THE BRAKES!

THEY'RE SLAMMED!

THIS IS NUTTY! IT'S JUST CROUCHIN' THERE-- NOT EVEN MAKIN' A SOUND!

ACTUALLY, LADS, IT'S NOT EVEN DOING THAT...

...SINCE IT DOESN'T REALLY EXIST, EXCEPT IN YOUR EYES AND MINDS!

BUT THEN, YOU'LL UNDERSTAND ALL THAT WHEN YOU LEARN I'VE RELIEVED YOU OF BOTH KEYS-- AND CASH.

BY THE TIME MY "DRAGON" VANISHES--

KEEP FIRIN', EDDIE!

--SO WILL THE SPELLBINDER!

IT IS NIGHT AMID THE GREY SPIRES AND SHADOWED CANYONS OF GOTHAM CITY...

...AS A NATTILY-ATTIRED MAN OF MIDDLE YEARS STEPS FROM A SECRET ELEVATOR, FAR BENEATH THE GLASS AND STEEL AND CONCRETE OF THE WAYNE FOUNDATION BUILDING...

...INTO A WORLD WHERE IT IS ALWAYS NIGHT, AFTER A FASHION.

UH... MASTER BRUCE...?

NO ANSWER COMES TO HIM FROM THE DARKNESS OF THIS SECOND BATCAVE...

AND ALFRED PENNYWORTH, DESPITE HIS EVER-PLACID EXTERIOR, HAS MOST DESPERATELY WANTED TO HEAR AN ANSWER.

I...WONDER IF IT COULD POSSIBLY BE TRUE, THEN...

...WHAT THE NEWSPAPERS ARE ALL SAYING.

IF SO, I'LL NEVER FORGIVE MYSELF...FOR LINGERING IN EUROPE FOR SO LONG WHEN HE MIGHT HAVE NEEDED ME.*

GOTHAM GAZETTE

IS BATMAN DEAD?

* SEE DETECTIVE COMICS #501-502.--PAUL.

AND YET-- IT SEEMS IMPOSSIBLE!

I KEEP EXPECTING TO SEE HIM-- TO HEAR HIS VOICE-- TO FEEL--

GOTHAM GAZETTE

IS BATMAN DEAD?

WHAT--?

ON

OFF

SORRY I DIDN'T SPEAK UP WHEN YOU CAME IN, ALFRED.

GUESS I WAS DEEP IN THOUGHT-- MUCH AS YOU WERE, JUST NOW.

MASTER BRUCE! OR, PERHAPS I SHOULD SAY--

--THE BATMAN!

ON

OFF

PLEASE PARDON MY OUTCRY, SIR-- BUT AFTER WHAT THE TABLOIDS HAVE BEEN SAYING, I--I FEARED THAT--

I'VE SEEN THE PAPERS.

OH YES... AND WELCOME HOME.

THANK YOU. I TAKE IT, THEN, YOU'RE QUITE ALL RIGHT?

LET'S JUST SAY I'VE BEEN AWAY--

--BUT NOW I'M BACK!

I SHOULD SAY YOU ARE, SIR...

... MOST DECIDEDLY, TOO!

NOT LONG AFTERWARD...

I STILL SAY IT'S A RED HERRING, COMMISSIONER.

YEAH-- HE JUST SENT IT TO THROW US OFF THE SCENT.

I DON'T THINK SO...

THAT ISN'T THIS PARTICULAR GENTLEMAN'S STYLE.

41° 46' N!
50° 14' W!
APPLY YOURSELF!
The Clue master

I JUST WISH I KNEW WHAT KIND OF CLUE THAT BARGAIN-BASEMENT IMITATION OF THE RIDDLER MEANS TO GIVE US.

THERE'S NOTHING AT THAT LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE... NOTHING BUT SALT WATER AND SEALS!

OF COURSE, IT COULD MEAN SOMETHING ELSE BESIDES MARKINGS ON A MAP...

BUT WHAT?

SOMETHING WRONG, SIR?

I... JUST THOUGHT I SAW SOMETHING FOR A SECOND... OUT OF THE CORNER OF MY EYE...

.. BUT I GUESS IT WAS JUST WISHFUL THINKING...!

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CONTINUED ON 2ND PAGE FOLLOWING

SUPERMAN
IN "GOLD MINE RESCUE"
THEY'RE IN THERE, ALL RIGHT. BUT IT'S TOO RISKY TO BLAST, SO I'LL...
LOOK! SUPERMAN'S USING HIS BODY AS A HUMAN... ER... SUPERHUMAN DRILL.
HOW WAS IT DOWN THERE?
SCARY.
SPOOKY!
WE DIDN'T EVEN FIND ANY GOLD!
AND BOY, ARE WE HUNGRY!
HERE'S ANOTHER KIND OF GOLD... THAT YOU CAN EAT!
WOW! HOSTESS® TWINKIES® CAKES! GOLDEN SPONGE CAKES!
THANKS, JIMMY. I LOVE THE CREAMED FILLING.
YOU MISSED A REAL GOLD MINE OF A STORY, CLARK.
SCOOPED AGAIN, JIM.
Twinkies
Twinkies
YOU GET A BIG DELIGHT IN EVERY BITE OF HOSTESS® TWINKIES® CAKES
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COMMISSIONER GORDON'S RIGHT ABOUT *ONE* THING-- THE CLUEMASTER *WAS* A POOR-MAN'S *RIDDLER*, ALL RIGHT.

WE MET ONLY *ONCE*-- SEVERAL YEARS BACK--

BUT THAT HASN'T *STOPPED* ME FROM FIGURING OUT HIS LITTLE *CLUE*--

--*BOTH* OF THEM, IN FACT!

PRETTY *OBVIOUS* TO ONE WHO'S SAILED HIS OWN *BATSUB*-- HIS SPELLING OUT THE *LOCATION* OF THE LONG-SUNKEN *TITANIC*--

--AND FOR THAT "*APPLY YOURSELF*" REMARK--!

AT LEAST HE'S STOPPED GIVING OUT "*TOPSY-TURVY*" CLUES--

--PROBABLY BECAUSE I DOPED THEM OUT AND SENT HIM TO *PRISON*.

NOW, IF I CAN JUST CURE HIM OF *PUNS* AS WELL!

NO NEED TO *HURRY*.

WE'VE GOT *ALL NIGHT*.

UH-- MAYBE NOT *QUITE* THAT LONG, BOSS!

EH? WHAT ARE YOU *TALKING*--?

WAIT! THAT *SHADOW*!

AH, HOW QUICKLY THEY FORGET!

NO, NOT THE SHADOW, PUNK. HE RETIRED.

BATMAN!

THE BATMAN, TO YOU!

BUT, HE SAID YOU WERE--

WELL, NO MATTER.

THIS SMOKE-PELLET WILL TAKE CARE OF OUR ESCAPE--

--AND YOUR LUNGS!

POP

YOU DISAPPOINT ME, CLUEMASTER.

I CATALOGED ALL YOUR LITTLE CAPSULES WHEN I HAULED YOU IN THE FIRST TIME, REMEMBER?

TOO BAD YOU DIDN'T SPEND YOUR TIME BEHIND BARS IMPROVING EITHER YOUR ACT--

PUNK!

WHOP!

SPLAK!

UHHHNNN

--OR AT LEAST THE COMPANY YOU KEEP!

I'LL *SETTLE* WITH THAT TWO-BIT *MONARCH OF MENACE* FOR THIS!

BUT MEANWHILE-- IF I CAN JUST *LOCATE* BATMAN THROUGH THIS *PEA-SOUP*--!

THERE HE IS!

GOOD-BYE, CHUMP! YOU WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO SEE A *BATTLESHIP* AFTER I--

OH, I GUESS I FORGOT TO *MENTION*--

I'VE HAD TIME TO ADD SMOKE-RESISTANT *CONTACT LENSES* TO MY REPERTOIRE SINCE I SENT YOU UP.

OHHH! I--I DROPPED--

UH! EXPLODED-- SO *CLOSE!*

WE'VE HAD *SOME* SUCCESS WITH *SHUTTING OUR EYES* AT CLOSE RANGE, CLUEMASTER...

...BUT IN *YOUR* CASE, I'LL SETTLE FOR SHUTTING YOUR *MOUTH!*

ALL THOSE YEARS IN THE *BIG HOUSE*-- AND THEN YOU GET CAUGHT ON YOUR *FIRST* CAPER *OUT!*

MAYBE YOU SHOULD'VE STUCK TO BEING *PROP MAN* FOR THE *PRISON VARIETY SHOW!*

MINUTES LATER...

CLUEMASTER AND COMPANY SHOULD BE NICE AND COZY FOR A WHILE WHERE I LEFT THEM.

MAYBE ONE OF THEM WILL EVEN *CRACK* AND TELL ME WHO'S *BEHIND* THIS CRIME WAVE.

MEANWHILE, I'LL SEE IF I CAN SCROUNGE UP ANY *MORE* HOODS WHO THINK I'M *MISSING IN ACTION.*

WELL, WOULDN'T YOU JUST *KNOW!*

HURRY UP WITH THAT *BLOW-TORCH!*

THERE'S STILL *CORE* IN THIS *BURG,* Y'KNOW.

YEAH, BUT THE *MONARCH OF MENACE* SAID--

THE *MONARCH OF MENACE,* EH?

NOW THERE'S A NAME THAT CONJURES UP *MEM-ORIES--* ALL *BAD!*

IT--IT *CAN'T BE!* YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO BE *LOCKED* UP SOME-WHERE!

--WHEN I TURN HIM INTO *PRICASSEED BAT!*

MY CAPE'S JUST *ABOUT RETARDANT* ENOUGH TO PROTECT ME FOR MAYBE *THREE SECONDS--*

SOOOSH

--WHICH, LUCKILY, IS ABOUT *TWO* SECONDS LONGER THAN IT *NEEDS* TO BE!

I'LL KEEP *THESE* LOWLIFES ON ICE A FEW HOURS, TOO--

--TILL I FINISH MY *PATROL.*

SKOK!

YEAH! WELL, I'LL MAKE HIM WISH HE *WAS--*

ALAS, BATMAN, YOU'VE *FORGOTTEN* ONE LITTLE ITEM:

EVEN RATS HAVE BEEN KNOWN TO POST AN OCCASIONAL LOOKOUT.

THUS, ERE LONG...

YOU *HEARD* ME, MONARCH! I WANT SOME 'A THAT *LOOT* THE OTHERS BEEN GIVIN' YOU-- OR I'M *BLOWIN' THE WHISTLE* ON YOU!

NOT ONLY IS THE BATMAN RUNNIN' AROUND *FREE* AS A BIRD--

--BUT HE SURE *WASN'T* TALKIN' LIKE YOU'D *EVER* HAD HIM LOCKED UP!

DO I GET MY *HUSH-MONEY* OR--?

VERILY, MY FRIEND... YOU ARE A TRUE *VARLET* OF THE FIRST WATER!

HUH? ALL THEM *BIG WORDS*-- WHAT DO THEY--?

THEY *MEAN*, KNAVE, THAT YOU ARE ABOUT TO BE *KNIGHTED*--

HEY! TAKE THAT PIG-STICKER AWAY FROM MY--

--OR PERHAPS I SHOULD SAY, "*NIGHTED*"--

ARRRH

*ZZZ

MORNING COMES, AFTER A NIGHT BOTH LONG AND SLEEPLESS...

...AND FOOTSTEPS UNHEARD IN THIS HALLWAY FOR SOME DAYS..

...ECHO THERE AGAIN:

GOOD MORNING, GENTLEMEN.

FIRST OFF, I WISH TO *THANK* YOU ALL FOR ARISING SO *EARLY*...

...AND TO *APOLOGIZE* FOR THE CIRCUMSTANCES THAT HAVE MADE *NECESSARY* THIS MEETING OF *ALL FIRMS* IN WHICH *WAYNE ENTERPRISES* HAS AN INTEREST.

IS EVERYONE *HERE*, LUCIUS?

EVERYONE, SIR.

GOOD! AS ALL OF YOU KNOW, WE'VE BEEN *HURT* BY THE RECENT MANIPULATIONS OF *GREGORIAN FALSTAFF*, AND...*

* ISSUES #330-335. --PAUL.

UH, PARDON ME, MR. WAYNE, BUT OF COURSE YOUR *ABSENCE* THESE PAST FEW WEEKS HAS ADDED *FUEL* TO RUMORS OF *FINANCIAL PROBLEMS*.

PERHAPS, IF YOU COULD ISSUE A *STATEMENT* AS TO WHAT YOU'VE BEEN *UP* TO...!

LET'S JUST SAY, BILL, THAT I'VE BEEN *AWAY*...

...BUT NOW I'M *BACK!*

AS ALFRED PENNYWORTH WOULD SAY..."MOST DECIDEDLY!"

NIGHTFALL:

WE'RE SURE *HONORED* TO HAVE YOU RIDING *WITH* US ON PATROL, COMMISSIONER GORDON.

THE PLEASURE'S *MINE*, TOM...

...BUT I'M *NOT* JUST ALONG FOR THE *RIDE*.

AFTER ALL, WITH ALL THESE "*BATMAN IS DEAD*" RUMORS FLYING AROUND, I FIGURED IT'D BE GOOD FOR *MORALE* IF AT LEAST *I* MADE AN APPEARANCE.

SIR, DO YOU THINK HE'S *REALLY*--?

HOLD IT! WHAT'S THAT UP *AHEAD*?

LOOKS LIKE A *ROBBERY IN PROGRESS!* YOU'VE GOT A *SHARP EYE*, SIR.

I WAS A *COP* BEFORE I WAS A *DESK JOCKEY*, SON.

LET'S *MOVE IN!*

HOLY CATS! WHERE'D THAT COP-CAR COME FROM-- EVEN AFTER WE JIMMIED THE *BURGLAR ALARM*?

COOL IT! THE *BOSS'LL* TAKE CARE OF THOSE CLOWNS.

HE *BETTER!*

KEEP OUT OF *SIGHT*, SIR! WE CAN--

BLAST IT, TOM-- I TOLD YOU, I'M *NOT* JUST ALONG FOR THE RIDE!

ALL RIGHT, YOU CHEAP HOODS! COME OUT WITH YOUR HANDS UP!

THIS IS THE POLICE COMMISSIONER TALKING!

WELL, *WELL*, BOYS!

LOOKS AS IF WE HAVE A *CLASS AUDIENCE* ON HAND TO CATCH MY *OPENING ACT!*

WHO THE *DEVIL*--?

YOU RECOGNIZE ME, DON'T YOU, GORDON?

THE SENSATIONAL SPELLBINDER--

--AT YOUR SERVICE!

UHHH--!

WH-WHAT'S THAT COMING AT US?

RATS--

--GIANT RATS-- APPEARING FROM OUT OF NOWHERE!

OUR BULLETS-- DON'T EVEN FAZE 'EM!

THE SPELLBINDER AND HIS FUR-LADEN MINIONS, HOWEVER, ARE WITNESSING A FAR DIFFERENT SIGHT...

WHAT'RE THEY TALKIN' ABOUT, BOSS? I DON'T SEE NO RATS.

THAT'S BECAUSE MY SPELLS AFFECT THE OPTIC NERVES-- AND YOU DIDN'T SEE THEM CAST

JUST KEEP LOADING!

B-BOSS-- LOOK UP!

UH-- NOW WHAT? THAT HUGE FLYING SHAPE-- LIKE A BAT!

IT'S THE BATMAN! HE MUST'VE GOTTEN LOOSE SOMEHOW!

HAS IT COME TO ATTACK US, TOO?

BUT HE'LL SOON WISH HE WAS BACK IN STIR, WHERE I'VE SPENT MOST OF THE PAST DECADE!

MY OP ART SPELL WILL--

--GET YOU PRECISELY *NOWHERE*, MIND-BENDER.

HERE! TRY TOSSING A FEW HEXES AT *THIS* FOR A WHILE!

WHAAT--NO!

STRIPS OF *ALUMINUM FOIL*-- EXPLODING FROM THAT *CAPSULE*--!

IT'S *DISTORTING* MY VISUAL SPELLS-- *REFLECTING* THEM *BACK*--

--ON *ME*!!

CHECK! I FIGURED THAT IF ALUMINUM FOIL COULD MESS UP A WHOLE *RADAR NETWORK*--

--IT MIGHT HAVE POSSIBILITIES AGAINST YOUR *OP ART* NONSENSE TO BOOT!

NOW, I HOPE YOU'VE GOT YOUR *CHIN* ON STRAIGHT, PAL--

--'CAUSE THIS IS *NO* ILLUSION!

A LONG INSTANT LATER...

YOU *OKAY*, COMMISSIONER? I'M JUST STARTING-- TO BE ABLE TO SEE AGAIN.

THAT *SPELL-BINDER* CREEP-- IS HE--?

GONE, TOM-- WITH HIS *GANG*, AND THAT VANFUL OF *FURS*!

BUT--WAS THAT REALLY *BATMAN'S VOICE* I HEARD FOR A MOMENT--OR JUST THE *DREAM* OF A MAN GOING *MAD*?

AND, ELSEWHERE...

...SO THAT IS *WHY*, MY FRIENDS, I HAVE DECIDED TO *EXECUTE THE BATMAN*, RIGHT BEFORE YOUR EYES, THIS VERY *NIGHT!*

GREAT! IF YA NEED ANY *SPARE BULLETS*, MONARCH...!

IT'S NOT *AMMUNITION* I WANT, SIRRAHS... BUT *MONEY!*

AFTER ALL, ONCE BATMAN IS *DEAD*, I HAVE *NO HOLD* OVER ANY OF YOU, DO I?

SO HOW COME YOU'RE GONNA *KILL OFF* THE BAT THAT'S LAYING THE *GOLDEN EGG?*

GOOD QUESTION! YOU SEE, I HAVE DECIDED I MUST *LEAVE* GOTHAM CITY... FOR REASONS OF *HEALTH.*

YOU ALL *KNOW* HOW UNHEALTHY THE AIR IS THESE DAYS.

AND *WHEN* I GO, DO I *UNLEASH* THE BATMAN AGAIN, TO PREY UPON YOU AS YOU GO ABOUT YOUR NIGHTLY ROUNDS, OR--?

YOU SOLD *ME*, MONARCH.

HERE'S *MY* PART OF THE BUY-OUT.

AND *MINE.*

MY *THANKS*, GENTLEMEN...

IT IS A *PLEASURE*, BELIEVE ME, TO HAVE DEALT WITH SUCH *MUNIFICENT* MEMBERS OF THE UNDERWORLD ESTABLISHMENT--BOTH *COSTUMED* AND *CIVILIAN*, SO TO SPEAK.

A STRANGE SIGHT, INDEED... AS WANTED MEN *LINE UP* TO TURN OVER ILL-GOTTEN GAINS TO THE MYSTERIOUS, MASKED *MONARCH OF MENACE...*

18

CONTINUED ON 2ND PAGE FOLLOWING

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UNTIL...

HMMM... I SEEM TO HAVE SOMETHING FROM *EVERYONE*, EXCEPT FOR ONE *LATECOMER*...

...YOU... SPELLBINDER!

THAT'S RIGHT, "YOUR HIGH-NESS."

YOU'RE NOT GETTING A *RED CENT* OUT OF ME...

...NOT EVEN TO GO YOUR *BAIL!*

WHAT!?

YOU *DARE* REFUSE PAYMENT TO THE ONE MAN WHO CAN *KILL THE BATMAN* FOR YOU!?

OH, I DON'T KNOW, MONARCH.

I'D SAY *ANYBODY* CAN KILL HIM, IF HE'S GOT A BULLET WITH THE *RIGHT NAME* ON IT.

BUT, IF THERE'S *ONE* GUY I'D SAY *ISN'T* GOING TO FIND THAT BULLET--

--IT'S *YOU!*

CRIPES IT'S *HIM!*

WELL, MONARCH? WHY DON'T YOU *EXPLAIN* TO THE BOYS HOW IT IS YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO HAVE ME UNDER *LOCK AND KEY*--

--YET HERE I AM!?

YES, RUN, YOU CHEAP TWO-BIT HOODS! IT'S NOT THE LIKES OF YOU I'M AFTER TONIGHT.

IT'S THE MONARCH OF MENACE!

AND YOU CAN HAVE 'IM, FAR AS I'M CONCERNED!

HOLD IT, YOU GUYS! HE'S STILL JUST ONE MAN.

WE CAN GET 'IM, IF WE STICK TOGETHER!

YOU STICK TOGETHER! ME, I JUST HOPE LEFTY'S GOT THE MOTOR RUNNING!

IT'S WORKING-- AT LEAST IN PART!

I FIGURED IF THEY KNEW I WAS AFTER BIGGER GAME, MOST OF THEM WOULD HEAD FOR COVER.

POK!

AND THAT MIGHT-- REPEAT, MIGHT-- LEAVE ME SPEED AND MUSCLE ENOUGH TO HANDLE THE ONES THAT ARE LEFT!

SOUND REASONING, BAT'MAN -- BUT ONE OF THOSE REMAINING --

--GOES BY THE NAME OF--

BONG

SPANG

DID WE FORGET TO TELL YOU THAT BATMAN TROUNCED THE BOUNCER IN DETECTIVE #347?--PAUL.

THE BOUNCER!

MUST BE OLD HOME WEEK HERE IN CROOKLAND!#

LAUGH ALL YOU WANT TO, FOOL...

IT'LL BE A DIFFERENT STORY WHEN I SMASH INTO YOU AT FULL SPEED!

I SUPPOSE IT WOULD BE AT THAT--

--WHICH IS WHY YOU'RE NOT GOING TO!

WHOK!

WHAT? INSTEAD OF FREEZING UP--

--YOU KICKED ME!

SO NICE OF YOU TO NOTICE!

I'VE GOT A LONG MEMORY, MR. B.--

--LONG ENOUGH TO REMEMBER YOUR MAIN WEAKNESS:

L-LOOK OUT BELOW!

NAMELY NOW, IN A CONFINED SPACE LIKE THIS, YOUR ELASTALLOY OUTFIT--AS I BELIEVE YOU CALLED IT--ACTUALLY WORKS AGAINST YOU--

"--CAUSING YOU TO BOUNCE FARTHER--FASTER--MORE FORCEFULLY--

"--BUT ABOVE ALL--UNCONTROLLABLY!"

CHONG

SPRONG

BONK

HONGK

TBONK

TBONG

AND WHILE THAT ONE-MAN FLUBBER FACTORY'S DOING MOST OF MY JOB FOR ME--

NOT NOW, PUNK!

OOOF!

--I CAN CONCENTRATE ON "HIS HIGHNESS."

SMOOSH

GIVE IT UP, MONARCH!

YOU'LL NEVER MAKE IT IN THE UNDER-WORLD WEARING THOSE THREADS, ANYWAY...

BURGER KING WILL SUE YOU FOR TRADEMARK INFRINGE-MENT!

HOPED TO GOAD HIM INTO MAKING A STAND-- BUT NO GO, GO FAR.

CAN YOU HEAR ME IN THERE, MONARCH?

YOUR OLD PALS WON'T LIKE THIS ONE BIT--

--YOU RUNNING OFF AND LEAVING THEM HOLDING THE BAG.

I WAS SCARCELY FLEEING, CHURL!

WHAT--?

I KNEW YOU WOULD ESCHEW THE OTHERS AND FOLLOW ME...

...AND I SIMPLY WISHED TO KILL YOU... WITHOUT UNDUE INTER-FERENCE!

CONTINUED ON 23RD PAGE FOLLOWING

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YOU TALK BIG, MONARCH--FOR A GUY WHO LETS *OTHERS* DO HIS DIRTY WORK FOR HIM.

IS THAT NOT *TRADITIONALLY* THE WAY OF *KINGS*, VARLET?

AND HOW'D YOU KNOW I WOULDN'T *SHOW UP* AND BLOW YOUR *COVER STORY?*

I HAVE MY *WAYS*, BATMAN...

...WAYS OF KNOWING YOU HAVE BEEN ADVENTURING *ALL OVER* OUR TROUBLED GLOBE THESE WEEKS PAST.

BY THE TIME YOU RETURNED--*IF* YOU RETURNED--I INTENDED TO RELIEVE THOSE FOOLS OUT THERE OF A *KING'S RANSOM.*

WHO KNOWS? IF YOU HAD *PERISHED* ABROAD--

AND, AS THE MONARCH RANTS ON...

GOT TO BE READY FOR *ANY* OF HIS GIMMICKS...

GAS VENTS FROM HIS CAPE...

ELECTRIC SHOCKS FROM HIS SCEPTRE...

CROWN JEWELS THAT *HYPNOTIZE...!*

I CAN ALMOST *SENSE* YOUR MENTAL PROCESSES, KNAVE.

THUS, SINCE YOU ARE DOUBTLESS PREPARED TO COUNTER ANY OF MY *ROYAL DEVICES--*

--I HAVE DECIDED TO *THROTTLE* YOU INSTEAD--

--WITH MY *BARE HANDS!*

--I MIGHT EVEN HAVE FOUND A WAY TO *TAKE CREDIT* FOR YOUR DEATH!

DO YOU *FEEL* IT, BATMAN?

DO YOU FEEL THE COLD STEEL TOUCH OF *DEATH*, TIGHTENING AROUND YOUR *WINDPIPE*?

UNNH

I TRAINED *LONG HOURS* IN PRISON FOR *JUST* SUCH AN EVENTUALITY AS THIS--

--AND I *SHALL NOT FALL!*

ABRUPTLY, THE DARKNIGHT DETECTIVE GOES *LIMP* IN THE MONARCH'S STRONG HANDS...

...TO FALL, WITH *EQUAL* LIMPNESS, TO THE FLOOR.

HAH!

EVEN *I* WAS NOT AS POSITIVE AS I *SOUNDED*-- BUT I *DID* IT.

I *KILLED* THE BATMAN-- *BAREHANDED!*

DID YOU ALSO CRY "WOLF" WHEN YOU WERE A TODDLER, KING?

EH--?

DON'T BOTHER TRYING TO ANSWER THAT *NOW*, BY THE WAY.

YOU'LL HAVE *PLENTY* OF TIME TO REMINISCE WHEN YOU *STOP COUGHING*--

--NOW THAT I'VE ACTIVATED THE *GAS JETS* IN YOUR ROYAL CLOAK!

KOFF KOFF

THAT'S QUITE A *HAUL* YOU BROUGHT US TONIGHT, BATMAN...

FOUR COSTUMED CRIMINALS... AND A GOOD HANDFUL OF *TOP HOODLUMS* TO BOOT!...

OF COURSE, A *FEW* OF THEM MAY GET OFF THROUGH THE *COURTS,* CLAIMING YOU VIOLATED THEIR *CIVIL RIGHTS*...

...BUT AT LEAST IT'LL BE A WHILE BEFORE THEY SHOW THEIR FACES IN *GOTHAM CITY* AGAIN!

CHECK, COMMISSIONER! LET *SUPERMAN* AND THE REST HAVE A CRACK AT THEM, EH?

ALL THE SAME, I WISH YOU HAD *LET US KNOW* YOU WERE SKIPPING TOWN FOR A WHILE.

ALL THOSE "*BATMAN IS DEAD*" STORIES--

--WERE SLIGHTLY *EXAGGERATED,* AS A MAN FROM MISSOURI ONCE SAID.

THESE THINGS DON'T ALWAYS COME OFF AS *PLANNED.*

BESIDES, THOSE RUMORS BROUGHT *MORE RATS* OUT OF HIDING THAN A DERAILED CARLOAD OF *CHEESE*... AND YOU *KNOW* IT, OLD FRIEND.

AND NOW, IF YOU'LL *EXCUSE* ME...

...I'VE GOT SOME MUCH-NEEDED *SLEEP* TO CATCH UP ON!

SURE, BATMAN... *SURE.*

AS FOR *ME,* I INTEND TO TAKE A NICE LONG, LEISURELY *READ* OF THE *MORNING PAPERS*...

... *AGAIN!*

Gotham News

BATMAN ALIVE!

THE CAPED C... STRIKES ...

25

Dear Editor:

Over the last two years I have started to read *BATMAN* and *DETECTIVE COMICS* again and I can't help but notice a radical change in the Batman and in comics in general.

I started collecting comics and *BATMAN* in particular from about 1962 to 1966. I always enjoyed reading them, and next to *GREEN LANTERN*, I thought the Batman artwork was very good. About two years ago I started picking up comics again, and I just had to find out what the Batman was up to. To my surprise I saw a completely changed Batman. Gone was that sort of playful, adventurous sort of criminal pursuit. Instead I now find a Batman who seems to be almost obsessed with the pursuit and capture of criminals. He is almost a "Dirty Harry" type when he confronts them, and on more than one occasion he came within a hair's-breadth of violating their civil rights.

In many ways, I am glad to see the character of the Batman change and become more believable, but I keep getting the sense that there is a deep psychological reason for everything he does. I wonder if the type of fantasy and "escape from reality" which I associate with Batman will ever return. Has our culture and society affected us so much that they affect our heroes as well?

In closing, I would just like to say that if things go in cycles, will there be a return of some of the "fantasy" of the *BATMAN*?

Joseph Rettura
5 West 63 Street
New York, NY 10018

Changes in society clearly change the nature of heroes, Joseph. The myths and legends of any culture, or even the choice of current living culture heroes is a direct reflection of the beliefs of the people. Thus we believe that there can indeed come a return of the more "fantasy"-oriented Batman, as you describe him. The mirror through which the culture acts to reflect its beliefs is, of course, the creative people involved in shaping the myths, and that too can cause change in how a character is defined.

Beginning this issue, a new writer takes over BATMAN, as we welcome Roy Thomas to DC. Most comic fans are well acquainted with Roy's accomplishments, but on the off chance that a few of you have been so loyal to DC as to ignore our competition on Madison Avenue, here's the bio in brief:

After being one of the founders of comic fandom and fanzine publishing in the early sixties, Roy sold a few scripts to Charlton, worked momentarily for DC, and then went to Marvel where in a sixteen-year career he rose to Editor-In-Chief, wrote every major feature, effectively created the comic book genre of sword & sorcery by bringing Robert E. Howard's CONAN to the four color page, and clearly established himself as one of the two or three best writers in comics in the past decade or two. He's now come to DC to script BATMAN, a revived ALL-STAR SQUADRON, and a new sword & sorcery comic...among other projects.

It seems clear to us that as unique a talent as Roy will have a personal view of Batman's character which is certain to effect the book in the months to come. This issue's story, ably plotted by Bob Rozakis to ease Roy's schedule during his transition from Marvel to DC, will show some seeds of what is to grow in the future. Unfortunately, we can't give you any additional clues to that future, as BATMAN will be getting a new editor as well as a new writer. Beginning next issue, Dick Giordano takes over the editorial chores, as ye editor ceases to be an editor in order to devote more time to the ever-expanding business end of DC. Besides Dick's experiences as an award-winning editor in the sixties and early seventies, and his long time association with the Batman as an artist, his abiding love for the character abundantly qualifies him to take over the three Bat-books. We regard it as a rare pleasure in a world of scarce talent to turn our editorial "children" over to a better editor.

Having gone on so long, we'll turn the rest of the page over to reader's uninterrupted comments, and close our editorial tenure with a simple thanks for reading.

—Paul Levitz

* * * * *

Dear Paul,

Although the Electrocutioner (which was spelled wrong on the cover, by the way) was a new twist to an old idea, that's not what I'm writing about. What I am writing about is all the various subplots Marv Wolfman has introduced and the ones that he has continued from Len Wein's stay on this book.

It is about time this Falstaff thing came into the open. I must admit I made the same mistake as Steve Gewzonski did. I thought Caroline Crown was going to be Bruce Wayne's new romantic interest. Was I shocked when I learned that she was a plant last issue! As for Talia, thanks for bringing her back. Rā's Al Ghul is my favorite DC villain so I'm looking forward to his return next issue. Batman's disagreements with Robin have been portrayed very well and I'm anxiously awaiting the resolution of this plot-line, either here or in Teen Titans. As a teenager, I agree with Dick, but I can also see Bruce's point of view.

"Closed Circuit" seemed like a set-up issue, so I'm looking forward to next issue's resolutions and developments. You know, this book has come a long way since David V. Reed was writing it!

Stu Krull
28 Kettle Creek Rd.
Freehold, NJ 07728

* * * * *

Dear Paul:

BATMAN #331 boasted two entertaining stories, one original new villain, three (or is it one?) sub-plots, and the return of Talia (for which *last* month's cover was designed!). Add 'em all up, and the sum is a superlative issue of a superlative comic. Want to see my calculations? Okay, here goes:

Two entertaining stories: "Closed Circuit" by Wolfman and Fleisher was the headliner, and it was a fine action drama tempered with just the right amounts of characterization. Batman (for once) didn't play the grim avenger of the night as much and relied even less on his detective skills. I don't criticize this, I laud it; I like to be reminded that The Batman, besides his other attributes, is a trained athlete and a superb fighting machine. "Wolf in the Fold" by Mike Barr was almost actionless, but with a disguised Batman and an alert Commissioner Gordon on the scene, it certainly wasn't dull. Batman was surprised that he learned a few tricks from Gordon's lecture, but after all, the Commish does have decades of experience over him.

The original new villain was The Executioner, who was head and shoulders over most recently-debuting comic foes. His premise, to seek out and destroy killers who have been let loose by legal technicalities, was most satisfactory, but even I started to balk at the unusually high number of killers "freed on technicalities" in the story. Talk about unbelievable coincidences!

The sub-plots are really starting to command a large part of the story, but to paraphrase an old axiom: "All roads lead to Falstaff." He is involved in nearly all of them, except maybe Robin's quitting college and the re-emergence of Talia. Which leads me to...

Talia is back? Yep, there she is; but like the Catwoman plot, the question is, is she good or evil? I think time will tell (as usual), but frankly, I'm getting impatient.

I told you they added up to a superlative magazine! Why did you doubt my calculations?

Mark Lagesse
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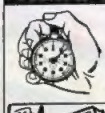

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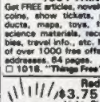
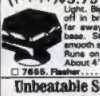


Red Flasher Light

$3.75 Police Style Warning Light. Big dome flashes on & off in bright red light visible far away. With suction cup base. Sticks tightly to any smooth surface like glass, etc. Runs on flashlight batteries. About 4".
☐ 7695. Flasher $3.75



Unbeatable Self Defense

Learn Judo, Jiu-Jitsu, Boxing, Wrestling, Muscle Building, Self Defense Tricks. Well illustrated, easy to understand paper covered books. Up to 95 pages long.
☐ 1286. 96 Tricks of Self Defense $1.48
☐ 1058. How to Build Mighty Muscles $1.48
☐ 1271. How to Box $1.00
☐ 1288. Combat Judo $1.48

SNAKE NUT CAN $2.95

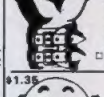
Offer to friends or leave on table, desk or sideboard & watch the fun. Somebody is sure to want to help themselves sooner or later. Looks like real can of mixed nuts but is loaded with cloth-covered 30" spring "snake" that shoots out. Works on even most suspicious victims.
2927. Snake Nut Can. $2.95

Foam Lighter

Looks harmless enough ...until they try to use it to light up. What happens next is unbelievable! Special gimmicked lighter erupts like a volcano, shooting & gushing foam several feet into the air. Creates shower of fun & laughs. Complete with "ammo" for about 20 "blasts." Water soluable. Won't stain. Additional refills available.
☐ 2059. Volcano Lighter $5.95
☐ 2060. Refill $2.95

1000 TINY MAGNETS

Fantastic fun bargain. Do tricks, stunts, experiments. Arrange in millions of patterns. Stick together with own magnetic force. No charge. Each 1/8x1/8x1/16".
☐ 2009. 1000 Magnets $2.10



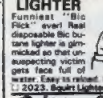
Motorized Submarine

$2.95 Sturdy 7¾" plastic submarine cuts through water powered by battery operated heavy-duty underwater motor. Runs on penlight battery. 5" motor is waterproof sealed, with adjustable rubber & built-in switch.
☐ 2992. Submarine $2.95

GIANT BALLOONS

$5.95 8-Ft. High BALLOONS

Weather balloon made of neoprene rubber. Can enter taining stunts, advertising effects, science fun. Runs on penlight battery. Rises on command 24 ft. around. Can be seen for miles.
☐ 3010. 8 Ft. Balloon $5.95



Super Insult Cards

Silent revenge for those who like to "Get" their friends, but not mad. 50 little cards printed with barbs & putdowns for most anyone. Tells 'em off without wasting your time & breath.
☐ 2800. Insult Cards ..... 99¢

SQUIRT LIGHTER

$3.95 Funniest "Big Flick" ever! Real disappearing lighter gimmicked so that unsuspecting victim gets face full of water. Easy to reload. Use over & over.
☐ 2023. Squirt Lighter $3.95

1001 Insults, Putdowns, For all occasions

A putdown, barb, wisecrack or snappy comeback line for every occasion. Find one to fit every situation, every type person.
☐ 1121. Insult Encyclopedia $1.35

Hercules Wrist Band

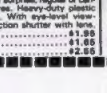
$1.65 Gives rugged, masculine appearance. Double strap for "he-man" look. Adjustable. Get two - one for each arm. Genuine leather.
☐ 2112. Each .$1.65
Set of 2. $2.95

POLICE STYLE HANDCUFFS

☐ 9043. Handcuffs with Keys ..$6.95
☐ 9044. Handcuff Case $2.49

Crazy-Action Billiard Balls

Great way to break up a serious game of pool. Looks like regular ball until your unsuspecting victim hits it. Wanders erratically all over table with strangest "English" you've ever seen. Regulation size.
☐ 2961. Crazy One Ball $4.95
☐ 2967. Crazy 8 Ball $4.95



RAINBOW WAVING HAND

$1.49 Bright, colorful, full size plastic hand mounts with flexible wrist cup for any smooth surface. For cars, vans, trucks, doors, windows, etc. As "Hand Waves," large silver prism dots on fingers change colors to provide a constant glittering rainbow effect.
☐ 2163. Waving Hand $1.48

Pocket Spy Telescope

Powerful, yet fits pocket like pen. Magnifies several times original size. Brings distant objects closer. Attractive finish.
☐ 9724. Spy Scope $2.25

AIR CAR HOVERCRAFT RIDES ON AIR!

New HOVERCRAFT glides like magic over floors, sidewalks. EVEN WATER! Sleek car of the future uses principle of air cushion to ride on cushion of air above most any surface. Colorful plastic, 8" x9 "x2" high, 4" propeller, 48" control line from push button remote control unit. Simply press switch and this beauty rises and floats in any direction you wish. Illustrates friction-less motion principles of full size experimental vehicles already in use. Not a kit. Ready-to-use except for 2 "D" batteries (not included).
☐ 7606. Hover Craft $7.95

X-RAY VISION

$1.85 Greatest illusion of the century! Appearance see bones thru skin, see thru clothes, etc. Amaze and embarrass everyone! Regular size glasses with built-in optical illusion.
☐ 3782. XRAY Specs Only ..... $1.85 Per Pair

MIDGET CAMERA

$1.95 Guaranteed To Take Pictures! Black & White or Color! Uses standard 127 film. Takes 18 walks size or 3½ x 5" shots per roll. Get developed anywhere or develop yourself. Camera is approx. size of cigarette pack. 3½ x 3 x 2". Weighs less than 2 oz. For surprise, regular or candid pictures. Heavy-duty plastic construction. With eye-level viewfinder. Single action shutter with lens.
☐ K4906. Midget Camera $1.95
☐ K4907. Black/white 127 film, roll $1.65
☐ K4903. Kodak Color Film, roll $2.65

SPY "PEN" RADIO

Real Working Radio Hidden in Pen Case!
Plus Into Your Pocket Plus Ear!

Hear SPORTS, MUSIC, LATEST NEWS AND EVENTS in office, school, bed, etc. Slips into pocket like ordinary pen. Tiny earphone for listening. Full range tuner. Guaranteed to pull in several stations in your area, although reception will vary from place to place. No additional expense. NO BATTERIES NEEDED. Self-powered solid state circuit. Germanium diode type radio (puts in radio waves from air). Ground wire included but not always necessary in most areas. Complete, ready-to-play. Money back if not delighted.
☐ 7062. Radio $3.75

VENTRILOQUIST DUMMY

$3.49
Exclusive Import Bargain
Make Him Move, Act Life-Like, Seem to Talk, Sing, Laugh.

Full length 16-inch dummy with control to operate mouth and move head. No practice needed. "Talks" at once. Make him sit, stand, even dance and act silly! Fully dressed in colorful tailored suit. Molded plastic, natural finish head. Movable arms and legs.
INCLUDED FREE:
5-Minute Lesson on How to Throw Your Voice (With or without dummy). Fool friends as voices seem to come from under bed, behind doors, etc.
☐ 6156. Archie The Dummy $3.49
☐ 8075. Dumbo The Clown $3.49

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Since 1914
MONEY BACK GUARANTEE
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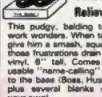
"Whack Jack" Tension Reliever

This pudgy, balding tension reliever will work wonders. When tension builds up just give him a smash, squash or stomp & feel those frustrations drain away. Soft, flexible vinyl, 6" tall. Comes with assorted, reusable "name-calling" labels you can affix to the base (Boss, Husband, Partner, etc., plus several blanks so you can write your own).
☐ 3999. Whack Jack $3.95



Deluxe Revolving Police Style Warning Light Only $7.95

Revolves just like authentic police emergency light. Attaches to car roof or dashboard in seconds. Also makes excellent psychedelic party light. Easily get into the music & the mood with brilliant red beams revolving eerily around the room. With suction cup base for fast attachment. About 8" tall. Uses standard batteries.
☐ 9527. Rotating Police Light $7.95

Motorized Flying Jet

$3.95 Authentic replica of Phantom Jet Fighter really flies. Amazing speed. Hangs from ceiling by means of included self-stick mount & several feet of near invisible line. Ready-to-fly except for standard batteries (not incl.). On-off switch. 7½" long.
☐ 2083. Jet Fighter $3.95

ELECTRONIC LIE & LOVE DETECTOR

USEFUL & FUN GREAT GIFT!

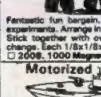
Registers emotions, feelings, reactions. Test lovers, friends, relatives for lies, compatability. Great for party fun, scientific, psychological experiments. Works similar to expensive polygraph lie detector, but now available in low-priced transistorized pocket model. Easy to use. Hand-held electrodes. Easy-read dial. Complete instructions. 4¼"x3". Operates on standard battery (not incl.). In attractive gift box.
☐ 9106. Lie/Love Tester $5.95

Joke Gum

Pucker Gum. Petrid.
☐ 2728. Pkg. of 9 ... 69¢
Hot Hot Gum. Electrid.
☐ 2724. Pkg. of 9 ... 69¢
Garlic Gum. Awful.
☐ 2735. Pkg. of 9 ... 69¢

BLEEDING SKULL CANDLE

Most chilling horror effect we've seen in years. When lighted brilliant red "blood" oozes over the forehead & down the face. Great for haunted houses, parties, room decoration. About 4½" tall.
☐ 3072. Skull Candle $2.49



GIANT PUPPET EAGLE

Looks mean, Big 12" wingspan. Realistic flying look as he dangles from his heavy elastic string. Made of soft, pliable rubber. Excellent detail.
☐ 3119. Puppet Eagle $1.95

Make-Up Kit

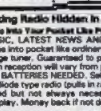
Rock Star and Horror Effects. Easy on-off 7 piece kit. For stage use, Halloween, etc. Disguises, monsters, etc. Remove with soap, water.
☐ 7001. Make-Up ..... 99¢

Giant Foam Dice

For car, bike, room, most anywhere! Each brightly colored foam rubber cube is 2½" high. Pair is connected with 6" string.
☐ 2004. Foam Dice ..... 99¢

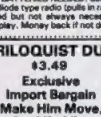
Squirrel Call

Brings them right to you. Hand operated.
☐ 4280. Only $1.95



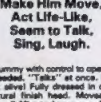
Magnet Lifts 100 Pounds!

Lifts up to 100 Pounds SOLID STEEL! Tested & proven on steel block. GO TREASURE HUNTING. Do amazing stunts. 1001 uses. Pocket size.
☐ 4008. Lifts 50 lbs. ..$4.25
☐ 4055. Lifts 100 lbs. ..$6.25



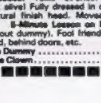
Phony Squirt Catsup

Plastic containers look like they should hold the real thing. So when you "squirt" at friends or relatives they'll think their clothes are ruined. Red or yellow string shoots out causing big commotion. Every prankster should have both of these in his arsenal for special occasions.
2639. Phony Catsup $2.15
2720. Phony Mustard $2.15



MINI-TOOL KEYCHAINS

99¢ Working miniatures of full size counterparts. Each with fine quality key ring on durable, snake chain. Approx. 3" long.
5496. Plier Keychain ..... 99¢
5497. Wrench Keychain ..... 99¢
5498. Hammer Keychain ..... 99¢



Black Eye Joke

$1.95 "Will ya look at this!" They look, while it blackens their eye (they don't know it!)
2972. Black Eye Joke $1.95

No-Hands Binocular Glasses

Worn like regular glasses, but gives you magnified, close-up look of field glasses. Follows the action when you do, yet so lightweight & convenient you'll soon forget you're wearing them! Easy-turn, adjustable focus lets you vary lens distance, with 10 possible positions.
☐ 8395. Binoculars $2.95

Portable Electric Fan

$1.79 Keep cool wherever you go. Handy pocket size, powerful. Use standard battery.
☐ 6885. Pocket Fan $1.79

"Smoke" From Your Fingertips

99¢ Hundreds of magic or joke uses. Hands shown to be empty, then suddenly smoke appears from fingertips! Do over & over again. No sleight; no manipulation. Nothing is lit or burned. Invisible smoke-producing gas spreads on fingers.
☐ 3116. Finger Smoke ..... 99¢

GIANT SLIMY SNAKE

NEARLY 3 FEET LONG! Threatening glare. Slimy feel. Guaranteed big & especially scary.
☐ 3860. Giant Snake $2.95

Prismatic Decals

Brilliant colors. Stick anywhere. With light diffracting prismatic background. Firebird is 7" wide. Snake is 3½" wide.
☐ 7908. Firebird $2.95
☐ 7909. American Snake $1.35

Big Bang Fun Snaps

Real Bang-Up Fun! Squeeze 'em! Toss 'em! Step on 'em! Gives BIG BANG! Amazingly loud, yet you can pop them anywhere between your fingers without harm. Box of 50. 2 for $2.75.
☐ 2081. Fun Snaps $1.49

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World Famous catalog of novelties, pranks, jokes, cloth patches, hobbies, scientific supplies, fun-makers, planes & boats, gadgets, time-savers, photo & optical goods, jewelry, disguises, music items, stamps, coins, puzzles, fortune tellers, radios, bikes & accessories, magic tricks, banks, office & artist supplies, engines, motors, sports, books, models, magic, much more.

☐ Yes—Send Me Your Catalog. I have enclosed 10¢ postage (Canadian 50¢).

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FIRST EDITION COLLECTOR SERIES

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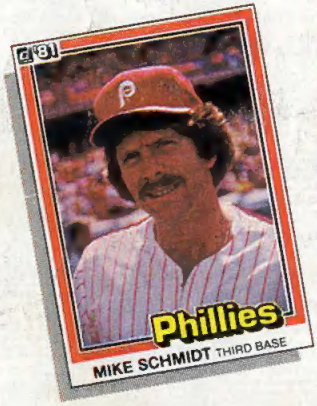

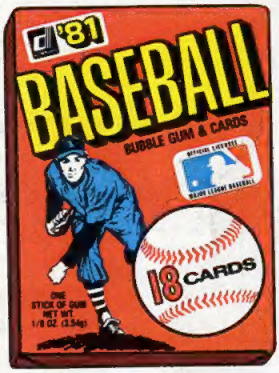

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